

**Contract Title: The San Francisco Green
Gardening Educator Training Program**

Contract ID# 97-0273

**PEST MANAGEMENT GRANTS FINAL REPORT
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DISCLAIMER

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The San Francisco Green Gardening Educator Training Program was developed and implemented by the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Water Pollution Prevention Program (WPPP). Amanda Rieux of SLUG, and Paula Kehoe of WPPP managed the project. This report was submitted in fulfillment of Contract Number 97-0273, the San Francisco Green Gardening Educator Training Program, and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission under the partial sponsorship of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and Management. Work was completed as of May 31, 1999.

ABSTRACT

The San Francisco Green Gardening Educator Training Program (GGETP) is designed to train residential gardeners throughout San Francisco about the principles of integrated pest management (IPM), environmental horticulture, composting and community outreach, and for the participants to share their knowledge with other gardeners in San Francisco. The training program has granted a diverse group of individuals the opportunity to learn green gardening techniques through a 90-hour training course and to share these skills with youth and adults from communities throughout San Francisco. The training course is followed by a 50-hour community outreach project to teach other gardeners about IPM, environmental horticulture and composting. During the past year, more than 50 city residents participated in the program and conducted over 2,800 hours of community outreach. Upon completion of the program, participants become certified as Gardening Educators. The program has reached thousands of people through hands-on garden-based learning. Continued support has enabled the program to increase education and outreach about IPM in the garden and to promote these principles city wide.

BODY OF REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The San Francisco Green Gardening Educator Training Program (GGETP) is designed to train residential gardeners throughout San Francisco about the principles of integrated pest management (IPM), environmental horticulture and composting. Program participants receive 90 hours of training and conduct a 50-hour educational outreach project in the community. Upon completion, students become certified as Gardening Educators.

The GGETP, now in its fourth year, has developed into a strong educational program with a total of 112 graduates as of May 1999, and 139 graduates by June 1999. Since the pilot program began in February 1996, GGETP has expanded and improved considerably. The training program has granted a diverse group of individuals the opportunity to learn green gardening techniques and share these skills with youth and adults from communities throughout San Francisco. The program has reached thousands of people through hands-on garden-based learning. Continued support has enabled the program to increase education and outreach about IPM principles in the garden and to promote these principles city-wide. Continued success with this program is expected into the future.

During the past year, the GGETP merged with the San Francisco Community Composter Educator Training Program to form the Gardening and Composting Educator Training Program (GCETP). The merger allowed for more participants to enter the program and to provide for a more comprehensive and integrated IPM and composting program.

Highlights of the GCETP for past year include:

- Completed 12 model green gardening sites throughout San Francisco.
- Revised course curriculum and course reader.
- Graduated 27 Gardening and Composting Educators from the fall session on December 12, 1998.
- Trained 27 Gardening and Composting Educators in the spring session, with a graduation date set for June 12, 1999.
- Conducted an Urban Gardening Internship for ten weeks for 18 people at the Garden for the Environment.
- Coordinated numerous garden tours and workshops at the Garden for the Environment.
- Reached over 1,500 school children through school-based presentations, garden activities, garden field trips and weekly garden classes.
- Provided 2,800 hours of community service related to IPM, environmental horticulture and composting at the 12 model garden sites and at other garden sites throughout the city.
- Offered more than sixty workshops at community, school and demonstration gardens throughout the city on IPM, environmental horticulture and composting.
- Educated over 3,000 city youth and adults on IPM through workshops, tours, tabling events, consultations and presentations.
- Maintained active GGETP and GCETP graduates who continue to serve as educators of IPM, environmental horticulture and composting principles.

INTRODUCTION

The San Francisco Green Gardening Educator Training Program (GGETP) is designed to train residential gardeners throughout San Francisco about the principles of integrated pest management (IPM), environmental horticulture, composting and community outreach, and for the participants to share their knowledge with other gardeners in San Francisco. Program participants receive 90 hours of training and conduct a 50-hour educational outreach project in the community. Upon completion, students become certified as Gardening Educators.

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The specific objectives of the program during the past year were to:

- Recruit 18-24 Green Gardening Educators from a broad cross-section of San Francisco communities.
- Develop IPM and environmental horticulture curriculum using existing university and community resources.
- Train volunteers in environmental horticulture and IPM techniques.
- Teach environmental horticulture and IPM from a course curriculum.
- Graduate 18-24 Green Gardening Educators.
- Teach environmental horticulture and IPM at a minimum of 18 School and/or community Garden Projects reaching over 2,000 urban gardeners through Green Gardening Education community outreach projects.
- Provide workshops in urban environmental horticulture and IPM to nursery professionals in the Bay Area.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The program strives to educate residents throughout San Francisco about gardening with environmental horticulture and IPM techniques. This achieved by training residents with 90 hours of coursework, followed by conducting a 50-hour community outreach project to teach the techniques to other gardeners throughout San Francisco.

To make the training program more effective, the GGETP merged with the San Francisco Community Composter Educator Training Program to form the Gardening and Composting Educator Training Program (GCETP). The merger allows for more participants to enter the program as well as to provide a more comprehensive education on IPM and composting. In the previous years, the GGETP, offered twice a year, averaged 20 participants per session. With the newly formed GCETP, the program now accommodates 30 participants, twice a year. More participants in the course leads to a greater number of residents learning and teaching others about IPM, environmental horticulture and composting techniques at home and in community and school gardens.

To assist teaching gardeners about IPM, environmental horticulture and composting, 12 model green gardening centers were established. Through the help of the GCETP participants, these sites have IPM signage and educational materials. Participants also conduct workshops and help maintain the sites. The 12 model green garden sites established as part of this project include:

- Paula Young/North Beach Community Garden, North Beach
- Good Prospect Community Garden, Bernal Heights
- Alice Griffith "Double Rock" Community Garden, Bayview Hunters Point
- 21st Century Academy, Bayview Hunters Point
- Alice Fong Yu Alternative School, Inner Sunset
- St. Mary's Urban Youth Farm, Bernal Heights
- Garden for the Environment (GFE), Inner Sunset
- Girls After School Academy (GASA), Visitacion Valley
- Caesar Chavez Elementary School, Mission

- Bayview Opera House Courtyard Garden/Joseph Lee Recreational Center, Bayview Hunters Point
- John King Senior Center McLaren Park Community Garden, Visitacion Valley
- Argonne Community Center Richmond District, Richmond

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- **Recruit 18-24 Green Gardening Educators from a broad cross-section of San Francisco Communities.**

A total of 54 people were recruited for the two training sessions—27 people for fall and 27 people for spring. By combining the two programs, the GGETP and Community Composter Training Program, a greater number of residents were able to participate in the program and far exceeded the recruitment goal.

Participants were recruited from all over the city of San Francisco. Recruiting efforts included flyers, newspaper advertisements, public service announcements, tabling at events such as street fairs, distributing information at Farmer's markets and speaking about the class at various organizations such as Young Community Developers.

Participants were selected based on their enthusiasm for urban environmental issues, community development and working with under-served communities. Participants were also selected to reflect the ethnic and gender make-up of San Francisco.

- **Develop IPM and environmental horticulture from a course curriculum.**

The course curriculum and course reader used in previous GGETP sessions was updated and revised to include more composting information. The revised course curriculum (appendix A) and course reader (Appendix B), continues to focus on IPM and many other essential environmental horticulture techniques. The manual was revised with information from past participants, the world wide web, UC Santa Cruz's Agroecology Program, contemporary permaculturalists in the area and from library research.

- **Train Volunteers in IPM and environmental horticulture techniques.**

Fifty-four participants received 90 hours of training in IPM, environmental horticultural and composting during the fall and spring sessions. Each session comprised of 17 training days during a four-month period. The sessions comprised of lectures and garden-based workshops, providing specific least-toxic gardening and community outreach information.

A course outline (Appendix A), a reader and two books—Rhodale's Book of Composting and Golden Gate Gardener were given to the students. Classes included: basic composting and worm composting, soil fertility, organic fertilizers, botanical propagation, native plants, urban permaculture, pruning and identifying pests and plant diseases.

Each class was designed for class time and hands-on gardening. Most classes were held on Saturdays with only a few evening classes on Wednesday evenings. Participants were given lectures and then were able to directly apply their knowledge by working in the model green gardening sites. Additionally, the participants worked with past SLUG interns and current staff to hone their teaching techniques as part of their training and outreach projects. (A listing of the community outreach projects is listed in Appendix C.)

- **Graduate 18-24 Green Gardening Educators.**

A total of 72 people were trained during the past year. Twenty-seven people graduated as Gardening and Composting Educators in December 1998. An additional 27 people participated in the spring program and are due to graduate June 1999. Additionally, between June and December, over 45 people received training in IPM, environmental horticulture, and composting through SLUG's training programs. Eighteen people graduated through the summer's Urban Gardening Internship program. Participants continue their education by working in the model gardening sites and teaching free workshops to the public on IPM and environmental horticulture. More than 2,800 hours of community service generated by the educators.

- **Teach IPM and environmental horticulture at a minimum of 18 school and/or community garden projects reaching over 2,000 urban gardeners through Green Gardening Education community outreach projects.**

During the past year, more than 4,500 urban gardeners and students were taught IPM, environmental horticulture and composting techniques through the following:

- Numerous garden tours and workshops at the Garden for the Environment.
- School-based presentations, garden activities, garden field trips and weekly garden classes—reaching more than 1,500 students.
- Sixty workshops at community, school and demonstration gardens throughout the city.
- Workshops, tours, tabling events, consultations and presentations—reaching more than 3,000 city youth and adults.

- **Provide workshops in urban environmental horticulture and IPM to nursery professionals in the Bay Area.**

No workshops were held for nursery professionals because of a similar program implemented by bay area wastewater/stormwater agencies. The program trained employees of hardware and nursery stores about IPM. In-store materials on IPM were also made available to the general public. Over 120 stores in the bay area, including stores in San Francisco, participated in the project.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

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- Educated over 3,000 city youth and adults on IPM through workshops, tours, tabling events, consultations and presentations.
- Maintained active GGETP and GCETP graduates who continue to serve as educators of IPM, environmental horticulture and composting principles.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Course Outline: Gardening and Composting Educator Training Program

Classes meet on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and on three Wednesday evenings from 6:30PM to 9:00 PM. Additional hours will be devoted to community outreach projects during and after the program.

Session 1	Gardening, Composting and Community Building Course philosophy/overview, introduction to participants, garden tour and Diversity Training
Session 2	Project Planning Potluck Learn about the different project opportunities and begin to develop project plans.
Session 3	Introduction to Green Gardening An introduction to the overall concepts of ecological and organic gardening.
Session 4	Basic Composting and Worm Composting, Methods & Systems A general introduction to various composting techniques for urban areas.
Session 5	Planting and Transplanting The basics on proper ways to plant for maximum plant health
Session 6	Soil Fertility & The Science of Composting Soil science, organic fertilizers and amendments, covercropping and uses of compost.
Session 7	Botanical Propagation Basic botanical information and ways to successfully start seeds and propagate plants.
Session 8	Workshop on Workshops Effective ways to present information and engage your audience with hands-on learning
Session 9	Compost Bin Sale Day Teach mini-workshops on composting to the public at our Great Spring Compost Bin Sale.

Session 10	Native Plants Introduction to the role of native plants followed by a tour of the John Muir Nature Trail.
Session 11	Urban Permaculture and Naturescaping Sustainable living skills and inviting wildlife to your backyard
Session 12	Garden Barn raising Dig in and get hands-on experience in the community!
Session 13	The Art of Successful Pruning and Training Pruning and training techniques for trees, shrubs and roses to reduce toxics use.
Session 14	Tracking Trash and Institutional Composting Field Trip Tour the SF Transfer Station and Cesar Chavez Elementary Cafeteria Composting Program.
Session 15	Identifying Pests and Plant Diseases Hands-on assessment of plant pests and diseases
Session 16	Next Steps Ways to carry on. Incorporating Green Gardening and Composting into your future.
Session 17	Garden Barnraising Another opportunity to find your niche in the community.

GCETP Graduation at the Garden for the Environment!

Appendix B: Course Reader Table of Contents (not attached)

Appendix C: GCETP Community Outreach Project Updates 1998-1999

The following details the specific sites where GCETP graduates have been conducting community outreach work. Many of the projects continue the work of previous graduates, while some of the project sites are new for this year. All of the GCETP graduates have been doing work in the diverse communities of San Francisco to promote IPM in the City.

Paula Young/North Beach Community Garden

Wayne Lee taught IPM and composting, installed a model green gardening center sign and established a tool storage area at the Paula Young/North Beach Community Garden. James Yew co-taught a Cantonese workshop on IPM and composting to encourage healthy, fertile, pest-resistant gardens. A garden pride day and picnic, in conjunction with the Housing Authority, is planned in for summer 1999. James will conduct another IPM and composting workshop during the garden pride day.

Good Prospect Community Garden

Javier Vera assisted with cleaning and maintaining the Good Prospect Community Garden. An IPM workshop on pruning was held at the garden. Additionally, compost bins were analyzed and reworked by the GCETP participants to create a more effective compost system. Donald Chukemeka will continue to maintain the garden by utilizing IPM and composting principles during summer 1999.

Argonne Community and School Garden

GCETP participants pruned the orchard with community gardeners, and helped to repair and revive the less toxic gardening and composting efforts at the Argonne Community and School Garden. Brooke Gelber and Nicole Dooskin worked primarily in the beds, where food is grown for the homeless, by implementing IPM and environmental horticulture techniques. Nicole also developed and conducted a workshop on IPM and environmental horticulture techniques. Another workshop on IPM and composting will be held during the garden's annual summer solstice celebration.

Alice Griffith, Double Rock Community Garden

GCETP participant Tonya Tobie, along with the youth who live at Double Rock, spent their Sundays maintaining the community garden with IPM and composting methods. Tonya will be working with the garden coordinator and will serve as a liaison to the community. With the aid of a grant, community volunteers and five GCETP volunteers, Aida Teklu, Brooke Dubose, Esmeralda Caberera, Madison Bensheim, and Jeremy Cantor, a Compost Education Center was built, complete with signage and brochures. Additionally, a permanent sign was designed and installed and drought tolerant and beneficial insect-attracting plants were planted. The garden is very active and growing many food crops including, carrots, lettuce, collards and strawberries. GCETP participants have also been very active by conducting tours at the site.

21st Century Academy

GCETP participant Louis Waters maintains the garden utilizing IPM and composting techniques at the garden located at 21st Century Academy. He has established a relationship with the garden coordinator and is growing food for the children to distribute at sales and to take home. GCETP participants Kate Golden and Andria Lesser have been very involved in the garden by working with students from several classes. During class time they take small groups of six children at a time to the garden to work in it and learn lessons about compost, beneficial insects, seeding and weeding. They activated the compost bins and put the green house to use. Kate taught a weekend workshop on Gardening with Children to a group of adults from the neighborhood. Kate and Andria are team teaching a series of after-school workshops on why and how to start gardening, highlighting the importance of IPM, environmental horticulture and composting. Charlotte Gaudette, Kweku Aquaal, and Seth Ladd coordinated an Earth Day event in which 50 native plants were planted, a three-bin compost system was installed and many new perennial plants were planted. The vegetable bed is productive with the persistent care of the school children and the GCETP participants. IPM and environmental horticulture techniques are taught to the school children.

Alice Fong Yu Alternative School

The Alice Fong Yu garden is currently in transition. GCETP participants are assisting with the re-design and establishment of the garden using IPM, composting and environmental horticulture techniques. GCETP participant, James Yew, is planning a compost workshop in Cantonese for kids, parents, and the surrounding community.

St. Mary's Urban Youth Farm

GCETP participants Richard Kay and Rodney Pond have assisted St. Mary's Urban Youth Farm. Richard developed a self-guided tour, highlighting the IPM techniques used at the farm, for visitors that come to visit the Farm. Rodney, along with members of the Youth Gardening Internship program, conducted water quality research to assist the team with a habitat restoration project conducted at the site. GCETP participants Hili Kolpovich and Paula Jones are also working at the garden. Hili and Paula are identifying and labeling native plants and herbs, respectively. In addition, Paula is developing a catalog of the herbs' uses in culinary, medicinal, and aromatherapy applications scheduled for completion by summer 1999 and will be leading a tour and organizing a work-party for forty at-risk teens in June 1999.

Garden for the Environment

GCETP participants Danny Jokelson, Brenda and Kimberly Ross worked at the Garden for the Environment (GFE). Danny, along with the help of GCETP participant Richard Kay, designed a system to catch water in order to reduce soil erosion at the GFE. The system captures the water from the pathways when it rains and re-directs it to the flower beds. This low-tech system is ecologically sound, efficient and inexpensive. Danny also taught two workshops on IPM and composting at the GFE. Brenda and Kimberly developed an herb class in conjunction with a nearby Senior's Center. GCETP participant Clinton Archie is currently staffing the GFE on Sundays. Clinton leads informal tours, highlighting IPM and composting techniques, and answers questions from the public. Clinton also maintains roses at the GFE, utilizing IPM techniques to keep them healthy and pesticide free.

Girls After School Academy (GASA)

GCETP participants Katherine Shine and Ara Rosenthal assisted the garden located at the Girls After School Academy. During December the program was in full swing, finishing with the production of garden crafts and herbal products using the garden's crops grown by utilizing IPM and environmental horticulture techniques. On December 16, GASA held their annual Kwanzaa Celebration. GCETP participants Kathy Valentine, Viktoria Hawkins, and Whitney Thorniley teach IPM and environmental horticulture techniques to the girls in the program. They used these methods to tend to their vegetable and herb seedling. During the spring, an Earth Day celebration was held at the site and plants that attract beneficial insects were planted. Students and GCETP participants added compost to plants, placed newspaper-based mulch in the perennial part of the garden, and finished the small greenhouse with heavy plastic. The group also worked in established beds, removing snails by hand and washing aphids off plants. Compost was added to the beds to increase plant health, making them less likely to be impacted by harmful pests.

Cesar Chavez Elementary School

GCETP participants Juan Ramirez, Angelina Vergera, Errol Dawson, Jackie Dairies assisted the gardening teachers by sharing their knowledge and skills of IPM, environmental horticulture, and composting. In addition the participants maintained the worm bins used in the cafeteria composting program. During the month of January, the participants spent Saturdays conducting tours in the garden to neighbors. The tours highlighted the techniques of gardening using IPM, environmental, and composting methods. Following the tour, the tour participants received a demonstration on composting. This type of outreach was very effective as it gave participants the opportunity to learn in culturally appropriate format. GCETP participants Liz Crockett, Bruce Horowitz, and Philip Vitale are also active at the garden. Liz and Bruce taught various workshops on composting and beneficial organisms. They will conduct another workshop on the basics of environmental horticulture and compost during Parents' night at the school in May 1999. Liz, Bruce, and Philip all plan to work with students during the six-week summer-school program at Cesar Chavez Elementary.

Bay View Opera House Courtyard Garden/Joseph Lee Recreational Center

GCETP participant Karen Bash works in the garden at the Bay View Opera House with the after-school program. The courtyard was planted with natives and plants to attract butterflies and birds and a three-bin composter was built. An Earth Day Work Day grant was received to assist Karen with funding the installation of the plants in the courtyard. GCETP participants, Charlotte Gaudette, Kweku Aquaal, and Seth Ladd assisted with the Earth Day, and planted more than 50 native plants. Children, who participate in the afternoon program at the site, and their families came to help. The site, with numerous containers and some garden beds, is becoming established.

John King Senior Center/ McLaren Park Community Garden

GCETP participant Maureen Delema has worked with the garden coordinator at the John King Senior Center. Maureen assists the elderly gardeners at the site with IPM, environmental horticulture and composting techniques. During the spring, the GCETP class worked at the site, moving large quantities of compost, and identifying a spot to build a green-house box to use for seedlings.

Other Program Accomplishments

In addition to work done at the specific project sites, a considerable amount of work has been done around the city to educate communities and promote IPM, environmental horticulture, and composting.

- **Gardens in Schools**

Numerous GCETP, along with previous GGETP, participants promoted a resolution to the San Francisco School Board which supports school gardens. Letters, phone calls, faxes and e-mails were sent to School Board members and the Superintendent of Schools. GCETP graduate Denise Yew spoke in front of the School Board to support of the resolution and she brought a petition from students, teachers, and the principal of her school to support the resolution. The resolution was passed unanimously.

- **Tabling Events**

During the past year, 9 tabling events were held. GCETP participants, both previous and current participants, used visual aids to demonstrate IPM, environmental horticulture, and composting techniques. They conducted outreach on the GCETP program and educated the public about the importance of these techniques. Some of the tabling events include: Good in the Hood Day, Potrero Middle School for the Arts, Earth Day at Strybing Arboretum, Exploratorium, the San Francisco Garden Show, and a Growing Your Own Organically panel discussion at the Ferry Plaza Farmers Market.

- **Tours and Workshops for Schoolchildren**

GCETP participants, along with GGETP graduates from previous sessions, lead tours, host workshops, and provide free educational field trips for schoolchildren on an ongoing basis. Many GCETP project sites held events during Earth Day and Open Garden Day and both participants and graduates lead tours to educate the public on IPM, environmental horticulture, and composting principles.

- **Ongoing Commitments and Projects**

The program's success can be seen as graduates continue volunteering in the community by developing new IPM and environmental horticulture gardening projects and maintaining projects they began during their initial coursework. For example, C. J. participated in the GGETP in 1995, brings developmentally disabled students to the Garden for the Environment every week to work in the garden. Guillermo Vasquez, 1996 GGETP participant, organized several workshops and arranged for two Spanish-speaking participants in the current GCETP class to teach workshops at the garden located in Alioto Park in the Mission District. GGETP 1996 graduate and school teacher, Robert Marosi, secured grants and started a program teaching Nutrition and Gardening at Cesar Chavez Elementary School (a model garden site). Beaker Prince, 1997 GGETP graduate, regularly volunteers at Cesar Chavez and provides numerous tours and workshops to schoolchildren. GCETP 1998 graduates Rodney Pond and Daniel Bonavie continue to conduct tabling events, teach workshops and lead tours of garden sites for schoolchildren.